

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-6 are pending, wherein claim 1 has been amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 6 has been allowed, and that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter. However, for the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 are allowable in their current dependent form.

Applicants appreciate the Examiners acknowledgement that the certified copy of the foreign priority document has been received. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed June 14, 2005 and October 14, 2005.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. US2004/0138790 to Kapolka et al. ("Kapolka") in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 63-223901 to Ishikawa ("Ishikawa"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing this ground of rejection in detail, a brief summary of the disclosed invention is provided. In conventional on-vehicle information devices, such as navigation systems, data stored in the devices can be overwritten by connecting a hard disk. However, in order for the data to be

overwritten power must be supplied to the on-vehicle information device from the vehicle battery. Accordingly, the vehicle engine cannot be turned off during the overwriting operation, which in some cases can last approximately 40 minutes. This conventional arrangement can sometimes result in an inconvenient and awkward operation of the overwriting process.

The present invention overcomes the above-identified and other deficiencies of conventional systems by providing an external apparatus that reads and overwrites an on-vehicle memory unit while also supplying power to the on-vehicle memory unit. Accordingly, the disclosed invention can read and overwrite data of the on-vehicle memory unit even when a power switch at the on-vehicle device is in an OFF state.

Turning now to the claimed invention, the combination of Kapolka and Ishikawa does not render Applicants' claim 1, as amended, unpatentable because the combination does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. For example, the combination of Kapolka and Ishikawa do not disclose "reading out and overwriting the data in the on-vehicle memory unit through control implemented by the external apparatus while supplying power to the on-vehicle information device from the external apparatus when a power switch at the on-vehicle information device is in an OFF state" as recited in claim 1.

Kapolka discloses a system for monitoring, configuring, programming and/or diagnosing operation of a least one vehicle which includes an on-board unit (OBU) 105, wherein OBU 105 sends and receives data corresponding to the vehicles operating characteristics to server 202 through wireless communications network 206. (Fig. 2 and Abstract). Kapolka discloses that OBU 105 is ready for sending and receiving messages from server 202 even when the vehicle is turned off (Paragraphs [0070]-[0072]). In particular, paragraphs 0070-0072 describe a process for obtaining stored values from a vehicle controller 308 when the vehicle is turned off. In this situation the vehicle controller 308 may not be able to be accessed by OBU 105 (which is always ready for receiving and sending messages), and accordingly, OBU 105 will provide saved values instead of obtaining the values from vehicle controller 308. Accordingly, Kapolka does not disclose or suggest that an external apparatus that controls reading and overwriting data in an on-vehicle memory unit also provides power to the on-vehicle information device as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Ishikawa discloses an on-vehicle controller comprising a controller body 1 which is installed in a vehicle, wherein a compact disk corresponding to a changing means or an IC card 2 is connected to controller body 1. (Abstract). However, there is no disclosure by Ishikawa of IC card 2 or the compact disk being able to power controller body 1, or that controller body 1 can send or receive data when controller body 1 is in the OFF state.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that because both Kapolka and Ishikawa do not disclose or suggest “reading out and overwriting the data in the on-vehicle memory unit through control implemented by the external apparatus while supplying power to the on-vehicle information device from the external apparatus when a power switch at the on-vehicle information device is in an OFF state” as recited in Applicants’ claim 1, the combination cannot render claim 1 unpatentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kapolka and Ishikawa does not render Applicants’ claim 5 unpatentable because the combination does not disclose or suggest all the element of claim 5. For example, the combination of Kapolka and Ishikawa do not disclose that “the information device is connected with the external apparatus *via a mounting slot* for a portable external storage device.”

Although Ishikawa discloses that a compact disk corresponding to a changing means or an IC card 2 is connected to a controller body 1 (see Abstract), there is no disclosure by Ishikawa that a compact disk or and IC card 2 is connected to the controller body 1 “via a mounting slot,” as recited in claim 5 of the present invention.

Similarly, Kapolka discloses that OBU 105 interfaces to server 202 through wireless communications network 206, rather than a direct electrical

interface (fig. 2). Therefore, OBU 105 and server 202, are also not an information device and external apparatus connected “via a mounting slot for a portable external storage device.”

Applicants respectfully submit that both Kapolka and Ishikawa do not disclose or suggest that “the information device is connected with the external apparatus *via a mounting slot* for a portable external storage device,” as recited in claim 5, and therefore, the combination cannot render claim 5 unpatentable.

For at least those reasons stated above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 and 5 as being unpatentable in view of the combination of Kapolka and Ishikawa be withdrawn.

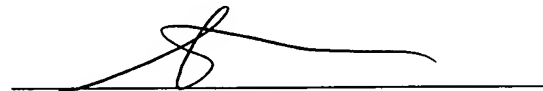
All outstanding objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in immediate condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #029267.52984US).

Respectfully submitted,

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